



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE**

March 12, 2002

S. 1857

An act to Encourage the Negotiated Settlement of Tribal Claims

As cleared by the Congress March 6, 2002

S. 1857 would designate December 31, 1999, as the date tribes received certain reconciliation reports regarding trust fund accounting from the Department of the Interior instead of the time these reports were actually received in 1996. Under current law, tribes have six years following receipt of a report on trust fund accounting to file a claim against the government for failure to correctly account for money in these trust funds. The courts may find that the reports provided to the tribes in 1996 were sufficient to initiate the six-year period allowed for filing claims. In that case, tribes could postpone the filing of claims against the United States, because S. 1857 would designate a new date that such reports were received.

Because the effect on the number and timing of tribal claims against the federal government as a result of enacting S. 1857 is unknown, CBO cannot determine whether the act would affect the number or amount of judgments that may be awarded as a result of any such claims. If successful, these types of claims would be paid from the Judgment Fund. Consequently, S. 1857 could increase direct spending, so pay-as-you-go procedures would apply.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Lanette J. Walker. The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.